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| **Serious Youth Violence Seminar** |
| **Report Title** | **What might an effective strategic response look like?** **Principles identified by LHOCS and YOS ADs** |
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| **Date** | **8 June 18**  |
| **Status**  | **For information and discussion** |

**Summary:**

Principles identified by LHOCS and YOS ADs in the main correlated to the following themes:

* Bring together key decision makers locally and across the city - Joint Accountability
* Agencies seeing the issues through the lens of other agencies / communities
* Language Consistency / building trust and confidence
* Ethos and Interventions
* Education / learning / teaching
* Emphasising enforcement

**Considerations for all Local Authorities initially:**

* Joint plan/ strategy for each Local Authority if one does not exist with analysis of the drivers of violence
* Agree the language describing the issues and using these consistently locally and with partners e.g. vulnerable, safeguarding, adverse child experiences, trauma-informed practice, Restorative approaches, potential for negative bias
* Actual / virtual exploitation (or similar focus) units to focus information/ intel/ agency response and grip. Sharing models of how this single list is created and monitored.
* Collect and share interventions being used across London and consider an academic review of outcomes and impacts.
* Review and scope how Universal schools safety programmes can be delivered across London linking into the work MOPAC are doing on this.
* Collective voice to government about funding opportunities and alignment and scope for greatest impact.

**Introduction:**

Following a significant number of incidents and spikes in serious youth violence across London in the past 6 months there have been several conversations across Local Authorities, MOPAC, Met police and local partners to provide greater understanding and focus on the issues.

There have been a number of reports and documents produced in respect of this including:

* ALDCS – response of London Children’s Services youth violence and knife crime – May 2018
* Chief Executive Response to London Councils Questions on Violent Crime
* MOPAC Knife Crime Strategy 2017
* MOPAC evidence and insight team – drivers of violence/ ACEs/ literature review
* MOPAC response to the public health approach to violence – reflection on the Glasgow model

**Methodology:**

In addition to the above, it was agreed that whilst gathering information on what areas are currently doing, helping to build a practice base, asking Local Authorities to consider the Question *“What might an effective strategic response look like? - Principles identified”* might assist in a collective CE agreement on a set of minimum expectations.

This approach might:

* facilitate all boroughs to be facing the same direction and provide consistency
* share best practice to facilitate greater reach of impact
* highlight requests and actions required by other partners

**The following themes and areas were raised:**

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| 1 | **Bring together key decision makers locally and across the city - Joint Accountability** * Senior people joining together locally with a single agreed plan including analysis of the drivers of the violence for their **area** and **across agencies**.
* Clarity about the links to the regional approach and interface.
* Clarity of direction by all and implement across London.
* State the difficult issues such as disproportionality / community police relations and identify communications recognising and committing to address.
* Need regional data consistently and regularly shared which is not about the number of offences but also about common hiding places / online sites to alert / stores of concern etc.
* Self-assessment of boroughs to ensure minimum standards if agreed are complied with.
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| 2 | **Agencies seeing the issues through the lens of other agencies/ communities** * Seeing the issue as about risk, harm and vulnerability which enables dialogue about Missing children, CSE, trafficked/ exploited/ groomed/ safeguarding.
* Understanding the context and landscape – naming the issue of county lines and drugs markets and approaches that meet this.
* Being clear how things like child protection procedures work/ don’t work.
* Developing Emotional empathy of staff working across agencies which give greater scope for joint working.
* Early identification and support.
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| 3 | **Language Consistency / building trust and confidence** * Language used to describe the issue such as risk harm vulnerability, safeguarding.
* Language used to focus on offenders such as grooming others/ serious organised crime.
* Alcohol / knife related drivers to violence – implementing minimum pricing / responsible retailers/ Trading standards/ licensing approaches to focus on safe places and spaces.
* Language between agencies and communities needs to be supportive and not blaming.
* Consistent working together in and with communities model such as trusted adults/ community guardians.
* Investment long term for community groups.
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| 4 | **Ethos and Interventions*** Recognised as a symptom of **adverse child experiences** and consequently and direct all resources and planning to **trauma-informed practice**. **Restorative approaches** to be aligned so that specific focus on an incident is used for learning and increased capacity to move from blame and shame and address historical harm. Reduce the fear, stress, the **potential for negative bias**, labelling and re-victimisation associated with violent offending by reframing and redirecting decisions, language and narrative
* Multi agency exploitation units (different terms used for similar teams)
* Contextual assessment and analysis used by all
* Parental advice and guidance
* Consistency of the voluntary sector offer / scope / interface with statutory agencies - critical mass and investment
* Interventions such as street doctors/ Red thread etc- Analysis of action and impact
* Understanding of online use/ dangers and use in violence – what’s the London approach?
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| 5 | **Education / learning / teaching** * Consistent offer across all schools – universal schools safety programme approach (knife crime, bullying, drugs and alcohol, healthy relationships, on line)
* Preventative focus through primary schools/ youth service type provision / Mental health / other
* Focus on school exclusions –schools policy / parental support
* Engagement with children to identify unsafe spaces and places and collective response to make them safe
* Community informal training and learning – agencies and community engagement model/ plan
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| 6 | **Emphasising enforcement** * Use of disruption tactics such as CBOs / Injunctions
* Coordinated approach to knife wands/ knife search/ arches/
* Clear language about stop and search what it is / is not and focus
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**Other areas of note:**

* Rehousing / movement across the county to rehouse – strategy and issues this raises
* Lack of coordination of funding and time frames makes consistency and impact difficult
* National guidance currently does not clarify the crossover/ interconnected issues of County lines/ drugs/ modern day slavery / safeguarding which would assist in consistency.